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REMARKS

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 16, 2007. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is requested.

DISPOSITION OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6, 11-16, 18-29, and 34-51 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 11-14, 18, 22, 34, and 35 were previously amended as set forth in the Proposed Amendment and Claims 47-51 were previously added in the Proposed Amendment. Claims 1-6, 11-14, 18-29, and 34-51 remain pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-6, 11-14, 18-29, 34, and 35 as being unpatentable over Fowler (U.S. Patent No. 5,124,554) in view of Lund (U.S. Patent No. 4,244,672), in view of Bonnet (U.S. Patent No. 5,868,238) in view of Bernard (U.S. Patent No. 5,171,120).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for the reasons set forth in Applicant's prior Response, and for the reasons set forth below. Notwithstanding, Applicant amended Claims 1, 11, 14, 22, and 34 in the Proposed Amendment to more clearly define Applicant's invention. Claim 1 now reads:

1. (previously presented) A baggage screening system, comprising:
 - a plurality of screening subsystems, each comprising an automated bag screen device and a feed conveyor for feeding bags to said screen device, said bag screen device adapted to screen baggage for at least one chosen from weapons and explosive devices;
 - a supply conveyor adapted to selectively supply bags to said screening subsystems;

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a cleared bag conveyor and an uncleared bag conveyor,
said uncleared bag conveyor adapted to deliver bags to a manual
screening function; and

a sortation conveyor network downstream of said screening
subsystem to selectively divert bags to said cleared bag conveyor
or said uncleared bag conveyor;

wherein said sortation conveyor network comprises a
secondary bag screen system, said secondary bag screen system
downstream of each said bag screen device, a first diverter
between said bag screen device and said secondary bag screen
system being adapted to divert a bag to either said cleared bag
conveyor or said secondary bag screen system, a second diverter
downstream of the associated said secondary bag screen system
being adapted to divert a bag to either said cleared bag conveyor or
said uncleared bag conveyor, wherein bags cleared by either said
bag screen device or said secondary bag screening system are
delivered to said cleared bag conveyor, wherein bags not cleared
by said bag screen device are delivered to said secondary bag
screen system, and wherein bags not cleared by said secondary bag
screening system are delivered to said uncleared bag conveyor for
delivery to said manual screening function.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Matthews for the helpful and courteous
telephone interview conducted with the undersigned and Matthew Kendall on August 16, 2007.
During the interview, proposed claim amendments similar to the claim amendments presented
herein, the arguments summarized herein, and the prior art references were discussed. The
arguments summarized below were presented.

With respect to Claim 1, the Office Action first takes the position that Fowler
discloses "a plurality of screening subsystems, each comprising an automated screen device (26)
and a secondary bag screen device (56)" (see Page 2). The Office Action then takes the position
that Fowler discloses "wherein the bags that do not pass the first inspection are sent on the
uncleared bag conveyor line to a second screening device," (see Page 3) where "second
screening device" refers to Fowler at Col. 3 lines 44-47, which describes a "designated location"
where baggage can be "examined more closely."

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Applicant respectfully urges that if the “secondary bag screen device” of Fowler was taken to be the neutron radiography unit (56) and the “bag screen device” were taken to be the x-ray chamber (26), then Fowler does not disclose a first diverter between the bag screen device and the secondary bag screen device. Alternatively, if the “second screening device” of Fowler was taken to be the “designated location where [items] can be examined more closely” (see Fowler at Col. 3 lines 44-47) and the “first inspection” were taken to be both the x-ray chamber and the neutron radiography unit, then Fowler does not disclose a second diverter downstream of the secondary bag screen system.

Thus, Applicant respectfully urges that Fowler does not disclose or suggest a first diverter between the bag screen device and the secondary bag screen system. Alternatively, Fowler does not disclose or suggest first and second bag screening functions in addition to a manual screening function.

Applicant respectfully urges that Lund does not make up for the deficiencies of Fowler. For example, Lund does not disclose a bag screen device adapted to screen baggage for weapons or explosive devices. Nor does it disclose or suggest the subject matter discussed above that is missing from Fowler.

Applicant respectfully urges that Bonnet and Bernard disclose only buffers and diverters which, as noted in the Office Action, are known in the art. None of the cited secondary references, including Lund, Bonnet, and Bernard, supplies the elements missing from Fowler as described above. More specifically, none of the cited references disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, a baggage screening system including a bag screen device adapted to screen baggage for weapons or explosive devices, wherein a secondary bag screen system is downstream of the bag screen device, wherein a first diverter is between the bag screen device and the secondary bag screen system to divert a bag to a cleared bag conveyor or an uncleared bag conveyor, wherein a second diverter is downstream of the secondary bag screen system to divert a bag to either the cleared bag conveyor or an uncleared bag conveyor, and wherein bags

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not cleared by the secondary bag screening system are delivered to the uncleared bag conveyor for delivery to a manual screening function. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claim 1 and its dependent claims, including Claims 2-6, 36, and 47, have been overcome.

Claims 11, 14, 22, and 34 were amended in the Proposed Amendment in a manner corresponding to the amendment of Claim 1 such that neither Fowler, nor Fowler taken in view of Lund, and/or Bonnet, and/or Bernard, discloses or suggests all of the limitations of any one of Claims 11, 14, 22, and 34. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 11, 14, 22, 34, and their dependent claims, namely Claims 12-13, 18-21, 23-29, 35, 36-46, and 48-51, have also been overcome.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicant previously added (in the Proposed Amendment) Claims 47-51, which depend from Claims 1, 11, 14, 22, and 34, respectively. Each of Claims 47-51 add a limitation directed to a buffer, which was deleted from each of Claims 1, 11, 14, 22, and 34 in the claims' previously presented forms. Further, Applicant has amended Claims 47-49 herein to more clearly define Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 47-51 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record.

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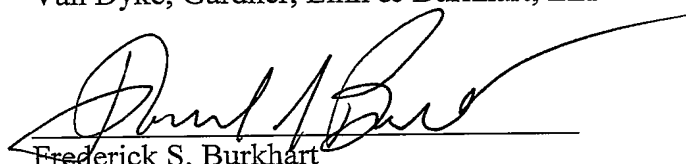
The amendments presented herein and in the Proposed Amendment are fully supported by the application as filed. Accordingly, no new matter is added. It is submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If Examiner Matthews has any questions or reservations, it is requested that Examiner Matthews call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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